[illegible]
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7753
INFO RUSBQD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD [illegible]
RUSBLK/AMEMBASSY KABUL 1833
RUQMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 6133
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5866

CN 362

E.O. 12065: GDS: 8/8/85 (HUY, DENNIS) OR-P
TAGS: PEPR, TU, AF
SUBJ: (U) TURKISH VIEWS ON AFGHANISTAN

POL
CHG
ECON
RF
CHRON

1. (C) - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THIS IS AN INFORMATION MESSAGE; NO ACTION REQUIRED.

3. SUMMARY: COMMENTS FROM MFA OFFICIALS IN RECENT DAYS HAVE INDICATED THAT THE GOT'S PERCEPTION OF THE AFGHAN SITUATION ARE GENERALLY SIMILAR TO US ANALYSES. THE TURKS WELCOMED BREZINSKI'S STATEMENT AS EVIDENCE OF FIRM US INTEREST IN THE SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

4. DURING SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS ON AUGUST 7 AND 8, MFA SOUTH ASIA SECTION CHIEF MITHAT BALKAN AND DIRGEN FOR POL AFFAIRS HUSEYIN CELEM, WELCOMED BREZINSKI'S RECENT STATEMENT ON AFGHANISTAN. THE GOT PERCEIVES THE STATEMENT AS EVIDENCE OF US WILLINGNESS TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN. CELEM, HOWEVER, DOUBTED THAT THE STATEMENT WOULD DETER THE SOVIETS FROM MAKING "EVERY EFFORT" TO MAINTAIN A COMMUNIST REGIME IN KABUL.

5. IN CELEM'S OPINION, THE SOVIETS WILL NOT PASS UP THE "HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY" TO EXPAND THEIR INFLUENCE IN AFGHANISTAN. THE GOT DOES NOT FORESEE OUTRIGHT COMMITMENT OF SOVIET MILITARY UNITS, THOUGH CELEM BELIEVED SOVIET INVOLVEMENT MAY GRADUALLY ESCALATE, IN THE FORM OF INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND "ADVISORS". THE TURKS STILL HAD ONLY FRAGMENTARY REPORTS OF THE RECENT FIGHTING IN KABUL, BUT THEY BELIEVE THE TARAKI GOVERNMENT IS IN DEEP TROUBLE. CELEM BELIEVED THE SOVIETS CAN DO LITTLE TO MUTE KHOMEINI'S OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION TO THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN KABUL, BUT THAT THEY WILL TRY TO EXERT DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE ON PAKISTAN.

6. OTHER TURKISH MFA OFFICIALS EXPERIENCED IN AFGHANISTAN HAVE RECENTLY EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEWS. MFA MIDDLE EAST BUREAU SECTION CHIEF ALP KARAOSMANOGLU NOTED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE TARAKI COUP, THE GOT AND THE DAOUD GOVERNMENT WERE ABOUT TO REESTABLISH THEIR EARLIER TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR AFGHAN AIR FORCE OFFICERS. THE TURKS BELIEVE THAT THE REGIME HAS IMPRISONED MOST OF THE TURKISH-TRAINED OFFICERS OR PLACED THEM UNDER HOUSE ARREST, AND REPLACED THEM WITH RUSSIAN-TRAINED OFFICERS.

SPIERS

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